asthmatic affections. As topical stimulants, they promise to be useful when any method shall have been discovered of fixing and preserving their acrimony. The late Dr. Barton of Philadelphia observes, that "the recent root of this plant boiled in milk, so as to communicate to the milk a strong impregnation of the peculiar acrimony of the plant, has been advantageously employed in cases of consumption of the lungs." This statement however should be qualified by the recollection, that the Arum imparts none of its acrimony to milk upon boiling. An impression of this kind can only have been received from a partial mixture of the substance of the root with the milk.

The root contains a large proportion of very pure white fæcula, resembling the finest arrow root or starch. To procure this, the fresh root should be reduced to a pulp, and placed on a strainer. Repeated portions of cold water should then be poured on it, which in passing through the strainer carry with them the farinaceous part, leaving the fibrous portion behind. The fæcula thus obtained, loses its acrimony on being thoroughly dried, and forms a very white, delicate and nutritive substance. Dr. M'Call of Georgia found these roots to yield one fourth part of their weight of pure amylaceous matter.—It is not uncommon

for a nutritious fæcula to exist in pungent and poisonous roots. The Laplanders prepare a wholesome bread from the acrid roots of *Calla palustris*, and the juice of the *Cassava*, or bread root tree of the West Indies, is known to be highly deleterious while recent. [*Note* F.]

BOTANICAL REFERENCES.

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Schœpf, *Mat. Med.* 133.—Rush, ii. 301.—Barton, *Coll.* 29, &c.—M'Call, *in Philad. Med. and Phys. Journal*, ii. 84.—Thacher, *Disp.* 153.—Cutler, *Mem. Amer. Acad.* i. 487.

PLATE IV.

Fig. 1. *Arum triphyllum.*

Fig. 2. *Spadix with anthers.*

Fig. 3. *Spadix with germs.*

Fig. 4. *Longitudinal section of the root.*